

In addition, I would plead with my colleagues to not cut our antihunger safety net programs like SNAP and WIC, programs which provide a minimum food benefit. To do so would only worsen the problem of hunger and obesity in America. We must end hunger now, but we cannot do so just by increasing access to high-calorie, low-nutrient food. It is a real challenge, but it's one that we are capable of meeting. We just need to muster the political will to make it happen. End hunger now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your Spirit in the decisions they make. May they possess Your power as they steady themselves amid the pressures of persistent problems.

May their faith in You deliver them from tensions that tear the House apart and from worries that might wear them out.

All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr.

MULLIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MULLIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTER CREATES RISKS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, our national security was placed at risk when the President's sequester began implementation. Sadly, this nearly \$600 billion budget cut was the third attack on our Nation's military. In 2010, the Defense Department experienced a \$100 billion budget cut. And again in January 2012, President Obama removed \$487 billion from our military in the annual budget.

Maintaining a strong national defense is a primary function of the Federal Government. Removing these resources so drastically places American families and our allies, such as Israel, at risk of future attacks. In fact, nearly half of all of the reductions in spending are on the defense budget, which is only 18 percent of the entire Federal budget.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I appreciate Chairman BUCK McKEON's efforts that our national security not be sacrificed to fight our Nation's debt crisis. It is my hope that the President and Senate leadership will work with House Republicans to address our spending problem by reducing wasteful spending and not by holding our national security hostage.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PUT AMERICA FIRST

(Mr. MULLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I come to you today not as a Republican or a Democrat, but an American committed to the United States Constitution. I regularly hear from my constituents who are fed up with the bipartisan fighting. We pledge allegiance to the United States of America, not our political parties. In President George Washington's farewell address, he said:

With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have, in a common cause, fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

Washington was right. We are all united by common bonds. Although we

have our differences, we are more alike than we are different.

In his address, Washington was not speaking to one party, but to all people of the young Republic. If we don't start putting this country first and partisanship last, we are going to ruin the country our fathers founded.

It is no secret that we are facing difficult decisions, but I am committed to working with any Member of Congress regardless of party, as long as they're willing to put country first.

ENHANCING THE HEALTH OF OUR YOUTH

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, a report issued by the Centers for Disease Control on February 13 made headlines with the news that young adults account for 50 percent of all STD infections.

This caught my attention because, as a father with two of my four kids in their late teens, I want them to avoid such risks. I am not alone. A recent national survey revealed that most parents feel the same way, regardless of race or political affiliation. They want their children to have the best chance for optimal health and, so, support risk avoidance education, sometimes called "abstinence education," for their kids.

However, currently there is a troubling 16 to 1 Federal funding disparity between contraception-centered education and risk-avoidance education. That is why I introduced H.R. 718, the Abstinence Education Reallocation Act. The bill brings some parity to programs that give our kids the facts about contraception and avoiding risky behavior.

Mr. Speaker, our teens deserve the best and most accurate information for their optimal health.

SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President is wrong to suggest taking more money away from the American people would ease the effects of his sequester or correct the debt crisis his policies have exacerbated.

Despite high tax revenue, Washington has been overspending by at least \$1 trillion each year of the Obama Presidency. When families run out of money, they do the smart thing—stop spending so much. Washington has to do the same, but arbitrarily cutting budgets through sequestration isn't the best way.

Twice since last summer, House Republicans passed legislation to achieve the same savings while completely removing the indiscriminate threat of sequestration. Our plans targeted waste and limited government growth. The President threatened to veto our proposals because they didn't include